

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 05397 130920Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-01

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /052 W

-----131001Z 051345 /22

R 130813Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8301

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 5397

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC (WIDEMAN, BERNARD)

SUBJ: WIDEMAN CASE

REF: MANILA 4585

1. HEARINGS IN WIDEMAN CASE WERE HELD APRIL 11 AND 12. HIS DEFENSE IS NOW BEING HANDLED BY SALONGA'S LAW PARTNER, ORDONEZ, SINCE SALONGA IS MAKING TRIP ABROAD (SEE MANILA 5070). AT APRIL 12 HEARING WIDEMAN'S ATTORNEY COMPLETED EXAMINATION OF HIS CLIENT.

2. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 15, DEFENSE WILL TURN OVER COPIES OF ITS EXHIBITS (WIDEMAN ARTICLES) TO PROSECUTION. NEXT HEARING AFTER WILL BE APRIL 19 WHEN PROSECUTION CROSS-EXAMINS WIDEMAN.

3. WIDEMAN'S NEW ATTORNEY TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER APRIL 13 HE ANTICIPATED HEARING COULD RUN ON FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

4. WIDEMAN TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 11 HE STILL RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF REMAINING, ALTHOUGH HE KNOWS FINAL DECISION WILL BE MARCOS'. ONE PROBLEM HE HAS NOW IS THAT MALACANANG HAS REFUSED TO RENEW HIS PRESS CREDENTIALS PENDING

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS. CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN COVERING BATAAN DAY CEREMONY FOR WP APRIL 9, HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO RETURN WITH REPORTERS ON PRESIDENTIAL YACHT, BUT HAD TO COME BACK ON BUS WITH VISITING US VETERANS. HE IS ALSO NOT PERMITTED ATTEND MARCOS' MALACANANG PRESS CONFERENCES.

5. BENEDICTIO PHASE OF INQUIRY APPEARS TO BE ON BACK-  
BURNER FOR THE DURATION.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009